

First 5 Preschool for All Technical Assistance Project: Phase II

Based on interest expressed by local commissions, First 5 California will initiate Phase II of the PFA Technical Assistance Project in April 2005. Under the direction of First 5 San Mateo County and the American Institutes for Research (AIR), Phase I of the project began in fall 2004, providing technical assistance to local First 5 commissions with First 5 Preschool for All Planning Grants and will continue through July 2005. The new phase of the project will serve up to 25 additional county commissions that have expressed interest in developing PFA plans and will continue through March 2006.

The following is an outline of the new Phase II PFA Technical Assistance activities:

April 28, 2005, Hollywood:

- In conjunction with the First 5 California conference, a mini-institute on *How to Become a PFA-Friendly Commission*.
- This mini-institute will feature successes and challenges experienced by the First 5 commissions that have made substantial progress in developing PFA plans.
- Topics will include how to build on existing initiatives, how to make the case for PFA, and workforce development.
- There will be three 50-minute sections, with a facilitated question and answer format. The workshop will be coordinated by the First 5 California PFA Technical Assistance Project.
- Because this workshop will be held in conjunction with the statewide conference, we hope that it will maximize the possibility of full participation and will facilitate knowledge sharing.

May 25-26, 2005, Sacramento:

- A 2-day workshop on *How to Use the PFA Toolkit and Expanded Tools and Templates*. This workshop will be a “nuts-and-bolts” presentation on how to assemble a PFA Master Plan.
- Session will include notebooks developed for each participating commission with county-specific data on the target population for preschool programs and current enrollment in preschool programs.
- Other topics will include how to get started on the planning process, how to estimate the local cost of upgrading and expanding preschool, a review of local options for financing preschool, facilities, and family outreach.
- To help make this workshop interactive, we will divide the workshop into subgroups by regions and/or rural and urban areas.
- The session is intended for the Phase II commissions, e.g., those that did not participate in the similar workshop held in October 2004 for the 12 counties with PFA Planning Grants.
- Each county may send up to three representatives. Executive directors, school readiness coordinators, and consultants working on local PFA plans are particularly encouraged to attend.

June and October, 2005, Los Angeles:

- Based on responses to a First 5 California survey, two additional workshops are planned.
- In June, we are planning a workshop on Developing Finance Options and Planning for PFA Facilities. The precise date is to be determined.
- A workshop is also planned on Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Programs and Assessing Program Quality in October.
- If there is sufficient interest in Workforce Development, this may substitute for one of the above topics.

Individualized Technical Assistance to Up to 25 First 5 Commissions (through March 2006):

- Following the May workshop, we will discuss with each commission their individual needs for PFA Technical Assistance.
- To the extent commissions have already developed PFA planning documents, we would like to review the existing materials to determine the extent that they are aligned with state commission criteria.
- We will conduct meetings with individual commissions, or provide them on a regional basis. Topics will include getting started on the PFA planning process, completing the Preschool for All Program Elements Worksheet, estimating the cost of new and upgraded preschool spaces, and developing a PFA Phase-In Plan.
- We are also available to provide technical assistance on the development of the PFA Implementation Plan based on data collected by both the local commission and AIR and, if desired, to review the final product for alignment with First 5 criteria.
- If a county commission plans to apply for a PFA Demonstration Grant in July 2005, and therefore wants to receive individualized technical assistance prior to the May workshop, please contact Susan Muenchow at smuenchow@air.org.

Eight 11/2 Hours Teleconferences (August 2005 - March 2006) on Specialized Topics:

- Topics will include but not be limited to:
 - How to Conduct a Survey on the Supply for Preschool
 - How to Conduct a Parent Survey on the Supply for Preschool
 - Planning for Inclusive Programs
 - Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Programs
 - Curricula to Promote Social and Emotional Development
 - Outreach to Families
 - Workforce Issues
 - Making the Case for Preschool